

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-09 NEA-10

AID-05 EB-07 COME-00 STR-04 SIL-01 LAB-04 TRSE-00

OES-07 DIWY-01 PA-02 OIC-02 L-03 SP-02 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 /115 W

-----081322 160852Z /15

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4493

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

UNCLAS USUN 2265

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: AFIN, UN, AORG

SUBJECT: UN ADMINISTRATION: JULY 15 MEETING OF COMMITTEE ON
CONFERENCES CONCERNING UNIDO CONSTITUTION AND
OTHER MATTERS.

REF: VIENNA 6554 AND PRECEDING TRAFFIC THIS SUBJECT.

1. SUMMARY: COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES POSTPONED UNTIL TUESDAY, JULY 19 A DECISION ON WHETHER OR NOT TO HOLD A CONFERENCE OF PLENIPOTENTIARIES ON THE UNIDO CONSTITUTION. IN THE COURSE OF THE MEETING IT DEVELOPED THAT A TELEGRAM OF INVITATION HAD ALREADY BEEN SENT BY THE SECRETARIAT TO GOVERNMENTS INVITING THEM TO A CONFERENCE OF PLENIPOTENTIARIES COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES ALSO WITHOUT OBJECTION APPROVED SHIFT IN DATE OF MEETING OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO SEPTEMBER 19 TO 23 AND RESUMED SESSION OF AD HOC COMMITTEE ON RESTRUCTURING OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SECTORS OF THE UN SYSTEM FROM SEPTEMBER 6 - SEPTEMBER 9. END SUMMARY

2. SECRETARIAT CALLED MEETING OF COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES FOR 3:00P.M. JULY 15 TO DISCUSS QTE INTERSESSIONAL DEPARTURES FROM
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APPROVED CALENDAR

OF CONFERENCES FOR 1977 UNQTE. ARRIVING AT SESSION, MEMBERS WERE TOLD THAT MEETING HAD BEEN CALLED TO APPROVE PROPOSAL FOR CONFERENCE OF PLENIPOTENTIARIES ON THE UNIDO CONSTITUTION AT HEADQUARTERS TO BE HELD FROM AUGUST 29 - SEPTEMBER 12. THE SECRETARIAT ESTIMATED THE COST OF THE CONFERENCE AT \$246,000 EXCLUSIVE OF INTERNAL REPRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION COST (\$15,000)

AND POST-SESSION DOCUMENTATION, IF REQUIRED (\$2,000). SECRETARIAT ALSO PROPOSED THAT THE COMMITTEE APPROVE A RESUMED SESSION OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON RESTRUCTURING FROM SEPTEMBER 6 TO SEPTEMBER 9 AT A COST OF 108,200, AN AMOUNT WHICH THE SECRETARIAT SAID SHOULD BE WITHIN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS APPROVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS 31ST SESSION.

3. NONE OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS HAD RECEIVED DOCUMENTATION ON ANY OF FOREGOING SUBJECTS PRIOR TO OPENING OF MEETING. SEVERAL, ESPECIALLY YUGOSLAVS AND SOVIETS, COMPLAINED BITTERLY AND SAID THAT THEY WOULD BE UNABLE TO ACT ON PROPOSAL FOR UNDISPATCHED PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE UNTIL THEY HAD HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONSULT WITH GOVERNMENTS. IN COURSE OF LENGTHY AND AT TIMES TORTURED EXPLANATIONS, SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS ULTIMATELY EXPLAINED THAT AMBASSADOR MEHTA AND SYG, WITH BACKING OF REGIONAL GROUPS, HAD AGREED IN GENEVA THAT CONFERENCE OF PLENIPOTENTIARIES SHOULD BE HELD FROM AUGUST 29 TO 19 TO COMPLETE WORK IN UNDISPATCHED CONSTITUTION AND ADOPT SAME. STILL LATER, LEGAL ADVISER SCOTT TOLD COMMITTEE THAT TELEGRAM OF INVITATIONS HAD ALREADY BEEN SENT GOVERNMENTS INVITING THEM PARTICIPATE IN CONFERENCE. THESE EXPLANATIONS ELICITED PROTESTS, PARTICULARLY STRIDENT IN THE CASE OF SOVIETS AND YUGOSLAVS, THAT THE SECRETARIAT HAD ACTED WITHOUT PROPER AUTHORITY, THE MEETING WAS BEING CALLED MERELY TO CONFIRM ACTIONS ALREADY DECIDED UPON, DELEGATIONS HAD NOT BEEN PROPERLY INFORMED AND HAD INSUFFICIENT TIME TO OBTAIN INSTRUCTIONS AND GUIDANCE FROM GOVERNMENTS.

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4. IN COURSE OF DISCUSSIONS, USREP STATED THAT CONFERENCE OF PLENIPOTENTIARIES BETWEEN AUGUST 29 AND SEPTEMBER 12 MIGHT BE PREMATURE. THE US RECOGNIZED THAT CONFERENCE OF PLENIPOTENTIARIES ULTIMATELY MUST BE HELD TO ADOPT CONSTITUTION AND RELATED DOCUMENTS, BUT IT WAS USG VIEW THAT CONSIDERABLE SPADEWORK REMAINED TO BE DONE. THIS PROBABLY WOULD BE BUSINESS OF PROPOSED SESSION. IN RESPONSE, UN LEGAL ADVISER SCOTT EXPLAINED THAT SECRETARIAT RECOGNIZED ADDITIONAL DRAFTING WORK WOULD BE REQUIRED. IN EVENT THIS NOT COMPLETED BY SEPTEMBER 12, SECRETARIAT BELIEVED THAT CONFERENCE COULD CONTINUE TO MEET DURING GENERAL ASSEMBLY WHEN SECOND COMMITTEE NOT IN SESSION AND, IF NECESSARY, PLENIPOTENTIARIES COULD CONVENE AT A LATER TIME DURING GA TO ADOPT CONSTITUTION AND TAKE OTHER NECESSARY ACTIONS.

5. IN VIEW OF UNREADINESS OF DELEGATIONS TO ACT UPON THE CONFERENCE OF PLENIPOTENTIARIES, CHAIRMAN PROPOSED THAT MATTER BE PUT OFF UNTIL TUESDAY, JULY 19, AND THAT COMMITTEE ADOPT WITHOUT OBJECTION OTHER TWO ITEMS ON ITS AGENDA. THIS WAS DONE AND MEETING ADJOURNED.

LEONARD

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